

# ON THE CUTTING EDGE



5th Annual

## *Dining in the Dark*

February 8, 2020

Renaissance Denver Stapleton Hotel



## ABOUT US

Established in 2013, the Blind Institute of Technology™ (BIT) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization providing workforce development and inclusive employment solutions that prepare people with disabilities, and the employers who hire them, for success in the workplace. Led by Executive Director Mike Hess, BIT aims to help solve the unemployment and diversity and inclusion epidemic among people with disabilities by reducing barriers to employment through education, preparation, employment placement and accessible technology initiatives. Our vision is a world in which people with disabilities have the same employment opportunities as their peers.

## SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

Dining in the Dark is expected to host 500 people, with major sponsorships from:



**Why Sponsor?** Join these other sponsors to make a positive impact on current and future young professionals that have a visual impairment or other disability by assisting them in gaining the skills they need for meaningful work with a living wage.

Two ways to sponsor: 1) Become a 2020 Signature Sponsor or 2) Sponsor the 2020 Dining in the Dark Gala Only. Signature sponsorships include everything in Gala Only sponsorship as well as additional benefits listed under each level. Additional promotional recognition is also available for Gold Signature level, to be determined with sponsor.

### \$10,000 GOLD - SIGNATURE

Free Admission to Sponsored Events:

1. Dining in the Dark - (2) Tables for 10
2. ACCESS Conference\* - 4 tickets
3. BIT Signature Event - TBD

- AV Presentation recognition at all events
- FREE Art of Blindness Workshop
- Introduction to a BIT Key Partner

### \$7,500 SILVER - SIGNATURE

Free Admission to Sponsored Events:

1. Dining in the Dark - (1) Table for 10
2. ACCESS Conference\* - 4 tickets
3. BIT Signature Event - TBD

- FREE Art of Blindness Workshop
- AV Presentation recognition at all events

### \$5,000 GOLD - GALA ONLY

- Dining in the Dark - (1) Table for 10
- Social Media Recognition
- Logo, Link, Text and Photo on BIT website
- Logo in Event Program
- AV Presentation recognition at Dining in the Dark
- ACCESS Conference - 4 tickets
- Signage at Events
- Recognition in BIT Newsletter

### \$3,500 SILVER - GALA ONLY

- Dining in the Dark - (1) Table for 10
- Media Recognition
- Logo and Link on BIT website
- Logo in Event Program
- AV Presentation recognition at Dining in the Dark
- Signage at Event

### \$2,000 BRONZE - GALA ONLY

- Dining in the Dark - (1) Table for 10
- Logo on BIT website
- Logo in Event Program

# WHO WE HELP

*"I did not think I would have a difficult road finding my next career opportunity after being laid off. I was educated, experienced and extremely motivated but often would not move past the initial interview. I struggled through this career search, just like so many other blind and visually impaired people. I found the BIT website and instantly reached out. Mike was the first person to ask me 'What do you want to do?' It was refreshing and I was empowered.", says Jessica Loomer, a BIT candidate.*

After last year's gala, BIT was able to get Jessica 6 interviews and 2 job offers, including one with Aetna which she took as a contract position and is now working a full-time contract at Charter Communications/Spectrum.

BIT has been providing the *Art of Blinders* workshop to corporate and government agencies since 2013. It creatively bridges the gap of understanding by teaching sighted individuals on what it feels like to be blind and to hone their listening and group interaction skills.

In 2019, Mike was invited to share the message of inclusivity and teach the skill of active listening to a young audience for the first time. The event was so successful that other area school districts have started reaching out to bring the same message to their students.



**Jessica Loomer, a placed candidate**



**Lyons Elementary, Lyons Colorado**

# ON THE CUTTING EDGE

Become a sponsor and join BIT on the cutting edge of technology for people with disabilities.

**LittleBIT:** In summer 2019, BIT partnered with the St Vrain Valley School District in a first-of-its-kind effort to grow digital accessibility expertise for an organization, from an organization. Working with the support of St Vrain District Technology Services, BIT crafted and delivered a curriculum designed to prepare students drawn from the student body with a paid internship program. Students learned how to assess the accessibility of digital platforms in use by the district, such as district websites and the Schoology learning management system.

**EdgGuide Micronavigation Technology:** Enabling greater autonomy for visually impaired people, there is a new way to experience the Denver Museum of Nature & Science thanks to EdgGuide, a micronavigation system that allows near pinpoint accuracy for indoor navigation. "Widespread adoption of technology like EdgGuide is key to solving the opportunity gap for people with disabilities seeking to participate in the modern world," said Mike Hess, founder and executive director of the Blind Institute of Technology, who has been blind since he was in first grade. Unequal access to job opportunities extends to experiences, products and services that disabled consumers could enjoy and participate in. From schools to airports, hospitals to museums, existing accessibility measures simply do not enable equal access, denying businesses the opportunity to meaningfully connect with and serve these communities. EdgGuide levels the playing field by unlocking a new level of accessibility for physical spaces, offering an unparalleled user experience for people who are blind or visually impaired. Using wall-mounted anchors, a wearable tag and an iOS application, the EdgGuide system allows those with visual impairments to independently navigate through a public space, providing point-of-interest information along the way with an accuracy of 20 centimeters. The feature senses where a user is standing and offers detailed information about exhibition elements and other Museum amenities.

# SPONSORSHIP COMMITMENT FORM

Return By Email: [natalie@blindit.org](mailto:natalie@blindit.org)

Return By Mail: 11149 W 17th Ave B2-101 Lakewood, CO 80215

Donor Name (as will appear in materials): \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Website (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_



## SPONSORSHIP LEVEL

- ☐ GOLD: Signature (\$10,000)    ☐ GOLD: Gala Only (\$5,000)
- ☐ SILVER: Signature (\$7,500)    ☐ SILVER: Gala Only (\$3,500)
- ☐ BRONZE: Signature (\$5,000)    ☐ BRONZE: Gala Only (\$2,000)
- ☐ We are unable to participate in the sponsorships, but wish to contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_

## PAYMENT TYPE

- ☐ \*Preferred method\* - Check enclosed, made payable to Blind Institute of Technology
- ☐ Credit Card: Please pay with MC/VISA online at [blindinstituteoftechnology.org](http://blindinstituteoftechnology.org)
- ☐ I wish to receive an invoice by email. Payment will be made by (date) \_\_\_\_\_ via check

## AUTHORIZATION & SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CUTTING EDGE SERVICES  
FOR THOSE WITH DISABILITIES!**

*Blind Institute of Technology is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. TAX ID 46-2557719.*

Donations are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.

Please keep a copy of this donation form for your records. Questions? Contact [natalie@blindit.org](mailto:natalie@blindit.org)  
Blind Institute of Technology must receive your sponsor commitment, logo, and payment no later than  
**1/10/20** for inclusion in Gala program.



# GALA GUEST INFORMATION

**Recognition Information:** Please indicate how you would like your company or personal name listed for recognition.

**Corporate Logo and Website Link:** Please send a copy of your corporate or personal logo, as well as a link to a website of your choice to: Natalie Hess, Events Coordinator, at [natalie@blindit.org](mailto:natalie@blindit.org).

**Note:** .SVG files are preferred for corporate logos, but high-resolution .PNG or .JPEG files are acceptable.

Please fill out any guest information available at the time of this agreement.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Meal (Steak / Chicken / Veg): \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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Meal (Steak / Chicken / Veg): \_\_\_\_\_



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